

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-3 (Canceled)

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): An electrostatic actuator comprising:

first and second electrode portions arranged at predetermined intervals, each portion including one or more series of electrodes arranged successively in a predetermined direction;

a slider disposed between the first and second electrode portions having electrode portions at side faces opposed to the first and second electrode portions and movable in the predetermined direction;

an electrostatic capacitance detecting circuit configured to detect electrostatic capacitances between the one or more series of electrodes of one of the first and second electrode portions and the electrode portions of the slider; and

a driving circuit configured to drive the slider in the predetermined direction by applying voltages between selected series of electrodes of one of the first and the second electrode portions and the electrode portions of the slider, said selected series of electrodes being selected based on a detected result of the electrostatic capacitance detecting circuit,

wherein the first and second electrode portions comprise:

driving electrodes configured to drive the slider, and

electrostatic capacitance detecting electrodes configured to detect the electrostatic capacitances, and

wherein the driving electrodes are shifted by a half of an alignment pitch along the predetermined direction from the electrostatic capacitance detecting electrodes.

Claim 5 (Canceled)

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): An electrostatic actuator comprising:

first and second electrode portions arranged at predetermined intervals, each portion including one or more series of electrodes arranged successively in a predetermined direction;

a slider disposed between the first and second electrode portions having electrode portions at side faces opposed to the first and second electrode portions and movable in the predetermined direction;

an electrostatic capacitance detecting circuit configured to detect electrostatic capacitances between the one or more series of electrodes of one of the first and second electrode portions and the electrode portions of the slider; and

a driving circuit configured to drive the slider in the predetermined direction by applying voltages between selected series of electrodes of one of the first and the second electrode portions and the electrode portions of the slider, said selected series of electrodes being selected based on a detected result of the electrostatic capacitance detecting circuit,

wherein the electrode portions of the slider are provided along the predetermined direction and comprises:

driving electrode portions configured to drive the slider, and

electrostatic capacitance detecting electrode portions configured to drive the electrostatic capacitances, and

wherein the driving electrode portions are shifted by a half of an alignment pitch along the predetermined direction from the electrostatic capacitance detecting electrode portions.

Claim 7 (Original): The electrostatic actuator according to Claim 6, wherein the number of the electrostatic capacitance detecting electrode portions is smaller than the number of the driving electrode portions.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The electrostatic actuator according to Claim 6, wherein the first and second electrode portions are provided with both a function of driving the slider and a function of detecting the electrostatic capacitances.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The electrostatic actuator according to Claim 6, wherein the first and second electrode portions are provided on a stator.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The electrostatic actuator according to Claim 6, wherein the slider comprises a lens producing an image of an object, the lens being disposed on the slider, orthogonal to the predetermined direction.

Claims 11-21 (Canceled)

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The electrostatic actuator according to Claim 4, wherein the first and second electrode portions are provided on a stator.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The electrostatic actuator according to Claim 4, wherein the slider comprises a lens producing an image of an object, the lens being disposed on the slider, orthogonal to the predetermined direction.

Claims 24-29 (Canceled)